To Members of the Labor Committee:

My name is Alan E. Ortner. I am the President and owner of Sirois Tool Co., Inc. and Dow Gage, LLC in Berlin, CT.

I am writing to voice my opposition to SB-63, which would require Connecticut employers to provide paid sick leave. This proposal will substantially increase business costs and could force many Connecticut companies to reevaluate the other benefits they provide their employees.

While this proposal would not immediately affect my companies, it will affect many of my customers in the state of Connecticut and give them another reason to consider lower-cost suppliers outside the state. With History as a guide it would also seem very likely that if this is passed it would soon be expanded to include smaller companies such as mine. I currently provide many excellent, but costly, benefits to my employees. Forcing me to offer paid sick leave would cause me to reevaluate the other benefits offered. It will also give me more reason to consider outsourcing work to companies outside the state rather hiring more employees within the state.

I urge you to reject this proposal and work with the business community to control labor and workplace costs in Connecticut. Thank you.

Signed,

Alan E. Ortner President